

Notable Tree Tour

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Colorado Tree Coalition's

Notable Tree Tour in Boulder

What is a Notable Tree?

A notable tree is one that is remarkable or distinguishable in some way, or related to a famous or historical person, place or event. A tree may also be notable if the surrounding community accepts it as being special based upon its species, uniqueness, or contribution to the community. Many of the trees in this guide are notable because they are the largest of their species in Colorado and are called Champion Trees. The Colorado Tree Coalition updates their champion tree list every year so check out the website www.coloradotrees.org for the latest champions, or to nominate a champion or notable tree.

Map of Locations of Notable Trees in Boulder

The Tour Begins

The Tree Tour begins at the famous Chautauqua Park. July 4, 1898 was the opening day for Boulder's Chautauqua. Before radio and television the Chautauqua movement united people for cultural and educational events. Originally there were over 12,000 Chautauqua sites and now this is one of the remaining three in the United States (www.chautauqua.com). Chautauqua Park is on the National Registry of Historic Places and is known for its variety of tree species, especially oaks. Here are a few favorites:

- White Oak, *Quercus alba*

Location: In between the circle road and Baseline

Notable: Fourth largest in CO

- Pin Oak, *Quercus Palustris*

Location: South of the circle road near Baseline

Notable: CO State Champion

- Chestnut Oak, *Quercus Prinus*

Location: East of pin oak

Notable: The champion and third largest are located here next to each other

- Kentucky Coffee-Tree, *Gymnocladus dioicus*

Location: Northwest of dining hall

Notable: A unique and large specimen

Street Trees are Special Too

Boulder has some notable trees lining the streets and decorating the parking lots, contributing to its unique beauty.

- Turkish Filbert, *Corylus colurna*

Location: 900 Block of Grant

Notable: There are many filberts in this area planted in the 700, 800, 900 and 1000 blocks; the largest is at 982 Grant

- Black Locust, *Robinia pseudoacacia*

Location: 505 University (on 5th Street)

Notable: CO State Champion

Historic Elementary

Mapleton Elementary is in the heart of a registered historic district. Be on the look out for many outstanding trees, including the rows of silver maples along Mapleton planted between 1890 and 1895.

- Red Maple, *Acer rubrum*

Location: 840 Mapleton Ave, on the east side of Mapleton Elementary

Notable: A gorgeous tree with amazing fall color

Next Stop

The trees at Central Park were planted around 1885. The park was originally called Cigarette Park because it was so thick with trees women would go there to smoke unobserved. It was acquired in sections, from 1906 to 1933, from the Colorado Southern Railway. (NOTE: The map is incorrect; tree numbers 8, 9, and 10 are in Central Park on the EAST side of Broadway.)

- Willow Oak, *Quercus phellos*

Notable: CO State Champion

- Shumard Oak, *Quercus shumardii*

Notable: Tied for second largest in CO

- White Oak, *Quercus alba*

Notable: Third largest in CO

Where Special Trees Grow

Our next tree is at Andrews Arboretum, established in 1948 by Maud Reed, a former botany teacher at Boulder High School. At her request it was named after Darwin M. Andrews, an internationally recognized horticulturist from Boulder. The arboretum was acquired by the City of Boulder Parks and Recreation Department in 1989.

- Yellowwood, *Cladrastis lutea*

Location: SE corner of Broadway and Marine

Notable: Tied for largest in CO

A Few Treasures

Another stop of the tour is at Naropa Campus. This university contains a few of Boulder's treasures.

- Sycamore, *Platanus occidentalis*

Location: Intersection of Arapahoe and 22nd

Notable: Three of the largest sycamores in Colorado, including the champ!

Something Unique

Right in Turley's parking lot stands an unexpected species.

- Cucumbertree Magnolia, *Magnolia acuminata*

Location: 2350 Arapahoe

Notable: Very unique species, CO State Champion

Back to School

Colorado University's campus has many special trees surrounded by historic buildings, some dating back to the University's beginning in 1876.

- American Elm, *Ulmus americana*

Location: West of Mackey Auditorium

Notable: Survived while most campus American Elms died of Dutch Elm Disease in the 1970's.

- Yellow Buckeye, *Aesculus octandra*

Location: West of Mackey Auditorium

Notable: Tied for second largest in CO

- Northern Red Oak, *Quercus rubra*

Location: South of Hale Science Building

Notable: A fine specimen over 100 years old

- Cottonwood, *Populus sargentii*

Location: South side of Old Main

Notable: Planted in 1876, this is the largest tree on campus

- Eastern Redbud, *Cercis canadensis*

Location: Next to University Theater

Notable: Tied for second largest in CO

- Weeping Swamp White Oak, *Quercus bicolor*

Location: North of University Theater

Notable: Has a unique sagging appearance

Final Stop!

The final stop is Green Mountain Cemetery, home to five Colorado Champions! This cemetery was established in 1904 and most of the trees were planted in the next ten years after that.

- Swamp White Oak, *Quercus bicolor*

Notable: CO State Champion

- Red Maple, *Acer rubrum*

Notable: CO State Champion

- Chestnut Oak, *Quercus Prinus*

Notable: Second largest in CO

- American Beech, *Fagus grandifolia*

Notable: CO State Champion

- Northern Red Oak, *Quercus rubra*

Notable: Tied for largest in CO

[Back to Top](#)

[back to Urban Forestry main page](#)